

Policy Recommendations:

In October, 2017, City Council approved the revisions to Chapter 5 of the City Code and the continuation of the ACS Strategic Plan. Chapter 5 of the City code contains nine main policy recommendations. The nine recommendations unanimously approved by City Council are outlined below:

1. Spay/Neuter Requirements

Increase requirements for spay/neuter of owned pets when found roaming free of restraint, found without the required litter or seller's permit, or when in repeat violation of other animal related laws.

2. Tethering Regulations

Increase tethering regulations to require access to 150 sq. ft. of unobstructed space and access to shade, water, and shelter. Includes prohibiting of use of chains as tethering device and the tethering of puppies or sick/injured dogs at any time.

3. Impoundment Authority

Increase City's authority to allow ACS the ability to impound a pet when being sold at unauthorized locations, or when found in repeat violation of permits (such as sellers or breeders permits) or spay/neuter requirements.

4. Animal Limits

Increase the limit of 8 fowl without permit & reduce the number of allowable roosters to only one. Limit the number of dogs and cats allowed with an excess animal permit to one animal for every 450 sq. ft. of unobstructed space.

5. Dangerous/Aggressive Dog Designations

At the owner's expense, require the following for dangerous or aggressive designations:

- ACS perform spay/neuter prior to the release of a dangerous/aggressive dog;
- Owner required to attend an ACS approved responsible pet ownership class;
- Prohibited the owner from transferring ownership/possession to anyone other than ACS.

6. Sellers and Breeders Permits

Require sellers of dogs to post sellers permit number on every form of advertisement. Also requires a seller or breeder to attend a responsible pet ownership class prior to obtaining a permit.

7. Rescue License

Require rescue organizations doing business in San Antonio to obtain a Rescue License free of charge for 501(c)(3) organizations. This license would exempt rescue groups from obtaining sellers permits, a pet shop license, or an excess animal permit.

8. Noise Complaints

Allow ACS to issue citations towards animal related noise complaints if animal is continuously barks for a period 20 minutes, on at least two separate occasion during the course of 24 hours from 100 yards away or behind the wall of a livable structure.

9. Clean-Up Language

ACS worked with the City Attorney's Office and the animal law prosecuting team to clean up language in Chapter 5 and Chapter 20 of the City Code in order to improve enforcement of existing laws. Examples include improved definitions for unprovoked attack, improved clarifications towards the use of the compliance assistance fund, and the movement of code language within the chapter.

